

Senator David Adelman  
Capitol Office 121-I  
Contact: Bob Herndon 404 463-1376

## Press Release 1/12/07

### Senator David Adelman's Georgia Town Act of 2007

*A Bill that will give more local control over development without undue burden on property owners.*

The Georgia Town Act will give residents in an unincorporated area an attractive alternative to creating a new city. They could instead vote to form a town that would make critical decisions about land use and local zoning. At the same time, they would continue to benefit from the larger tax base of their county. Basic services such as fire, public safety, water and sanitation would continue to be provided by the county.

Georgia towns would have distinct boundaries with identifying markers. They would have locally elected Mayors and Boards of Supervisors who would come from small districts and thus be close to the people they represent. Because the obligations of a town would be so limited, the cost of running the new town would be minimal. Every Georgia town would have a Constitutionally mandated cap on the level of property taxes they could levy and could only be annexed or converted to a city with the consent of its residents. The Georgia Town Act would give our communities an alternative to cities that offers smaller government which is closer to the people. For some communities in unincorporated areas, the status quo or city status may be best. Other communities may be better off as a town. The Georgia Town Act of 2007 will give Georgia communities the choice.

In our state, many unincorporated areas such as Tucker, St. Simons and Vinings already feel like small towns. They have important common interests and aspirations as well as unique characteristics and desires. Even though these communities do not have distinct governmental boundaries or structure, residents and local businesses share an identity and sense of place. Whenever the question of local government comes up, people have told me they want more self determination over their community's future. But, they are not eager to accept the potential higher taxes and increased bureaucracy that often accompanies incorporation as a city. There should be a third way that allows Georgians to choose a smaller and more strictly limited local

government. That's why in the 2007 Session, Senator Adelman will introduce the Georgia Town Act which would provide for the formal creation of towns in Georgia.